



# GARDNER

## Worcester County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The City of Gardner is an urban/industrial center. The city was settled late and showed a dispersed, small scale woodworking industry in the 1800's. By the early 19th century, however, this had become concentrated in a large number of chair manufacturing shops. Between 1830 and 1870 the expansion had brought in immigrants mostly from England, Ireland and Canada. Russian Finns, Swedes and Poles joined them in the 1890's as the chairmaking industry expanded. The Heywood-Wakefield chair factory complex was created and expanded between 1870 and 1897 and remained for the whole of the 19th century a major factor in the city's economy.

Mt. Gardner Seminary, a college for women, was formed in 1884 and the free public library was created in 1886, but the Gardner Light Infantry, a voluntary military troop, was formed as early as 1813. In 1896, the evening naturalization classes established in the city to help immigrants become citizens were commended by the state. The Gardner State Colony for the Insane, built in 1904, was a pioneer in the then innovative dispersal of patients in cottage residences rather than one huge building, a model that has since been copied around the country.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

North Central Massachusetts, bordered by Winchendon and Ashburnham on the north, Templeton on the west, Westminster on the east, and Hubbardston on the south. Gardner is 28 miles northwest of Worcester, 59 miles northwest of Boston, 61 miles northeast of Springfield, and 195 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 23.00 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 22.19 sq. miles

**Population:** 20,125

**Density:** 907 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Gardner, Templeton, Ashburnham

## Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fitchburg-Leominster



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 632-1900

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1785

As a city: 1923

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,058		
Democrats	4,391	48.5	%
Republicans	1,215	13.4	%
Other parties	3	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,449	38.1	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Gardner city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	20,770	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	20,770	100.0
Male.....	10,645	51.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	848	4.1
Female.....	10,125	48.7	Mexican.....	119	0.6
Under 5 years.....	1,244	6.0	Puerto Rican.....	506	2.4
5 to 9 years.....	1,492	7.2	Cuban.....	18	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,405	6.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	205	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	1,234	5.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	19,922	95.9
20 to 24 years.....	1,154	5.6	White alone.....	18,882	90.9
25 to 34 years.....	2,932	14.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,666	17.7	Total population.....	20,770	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,692	13.0	In households.....	19,492	93.8
55 to 59 years.....	903	4.3	Householder.....	8,282	39.9
60 to 64 years.....	707	3.4	Spouse.....	3,677	17.7
65 to 74 years.....	1,586	7.6	Child.....	5,736	27.6
75 to 84 years.....	1,245	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	4,542	21.9
85 years and over.....	510	2.5	Other relatives.....	621	3.0
Median age (years).....	37.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	218	1.0
18 years and over.....	15,841	76.3	Nonrelatives.....	1,176	5.7
Male.....	8,065	38.8	Unmarried partner.....	602	2.9
Female.....	7,776	37.4	In group quarters.....	1,278	6.2
21 years and over.....	15,171	73.0	Institutionalized population.....	1,238	6.0
62 years and over.....	3,764	18.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	40	0.2
65 years and over.....	3,341	16.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,348	6.5	Total households.....	8,282	100.0
Female.....	1,993	9.6	Family households (families).....	5,086	61.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,509	30.3
One race.....	20,442	98.4	Married-couple family.....	3,677	44.4
White.....	19,343	93.1	With own children under 18 years.....	1,582	19.1
Black or African American.....	476	2.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,063	12.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	70	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	719	8.7
Asian.....	284	1.4	Nonfamily households.....	3,196	38.6
Asian Indian.....	21	0.1	Householder living alone.....	2,687	32.4
Chinese.....	51	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,118	13.5
Filipino.....	20	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,694	32.5
Japanese.....	11	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,286	27.6
Korean.....	29	0.1	Average household size.....	2.35	(X)
Vietnamese.....	45	0.2	Average family size.....	2.97	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	107	0.5	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	16	0.1	Total housing units.....	8,838	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	9	-	Occupied housing units.....	8,282	93.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	6	-	Vacant housing units.....	556	6.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	1	-	occasional use.....	34	0.4
Some other race.....	253	1.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	328	1.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.4	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	8,282	100.0
White.....	19,619	94.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,520	54.6
Black or African American.....	593	2.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,762	45.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	156	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.64	(X)
Asian.....	338	1.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.01	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	32	0.2			
Some other race.....	371	1.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	337
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	13
Federal (Section 8):	102



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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The principal highway is State Route 2, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 2, which runs E-W across northern Massachusetts.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston, from Fitchburg (travel time 85-94 min.; no parking), via connecting Wilson and Mart buses. The Providence and Worcester Railroad and the Springfield Terminal Railway provide freight service. Contact number for the P & W: (978) 755-4000 ext.310. Contact number for the STRR: (978) 663-1073

### Bus

Gardner is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides fixed route service within Gardner and to the Fitchburg-Leominster Area, and paratransit services for the elderly and disabled. Vermont Transit Lines provides service from Gardner, to New Hampshire, Vermont, and to Boston via Fitchburg, Ft. Devens, Concord, and Newton.

### Other

The Gardner Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 miles SW of the city, has a 3,000'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Gardner Museum

28 Pearl Street, Route 101

(978) 632-3277

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital

### Long Term Care

Eastwood Pines Nursing Home

Gardner Manor Nursing Home

Wachusett Manor Nursing Home

### Hospices

Vna Of Greater Gardner Hospice

### Rest Homes

Forest Manor Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.